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Title: PRODUCTION OF TETRAZOLES**Abstract:**

Source: JP2000281662A PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a method for producing high-purity cyanotetrazoles or their salts in a high yield without producing a large quantity of precipitates of a heavy metal by reacting cyanogen with an azide in the presence of a catalyst, at need, in a solvent at a specific temperature. SOLUTION: In this method, cyanogen (A) is reacted with an azide (B) in the presence of 0.001 to 10 mol%, based on the component A, of a catalyst (C), as required, selected from the group consisting of (i) organic acid, (i) Lewis acid and (iii) chloride, in a solvent (D) at a temp. of 0 to 60 Degrees Centigrade to obtain 5- cyanotetrazole shown by the formula or its salt. The component B may be an azide of alkali metal or alkali-earth metal, aluminum azide, ammonium azide, amine azide or the like. The components (i), (ii) and (iii) may be a (substituted) 1-10C organocarboxylic acid, (substituted) alkyl sulfonic acid or the like; aluminum chloride anhydride, zinc chloride anhydride, tin chloride anhydride or the like; and ammonium chloride, aluminum chloride, amine hydrochloride or the like, respectively.

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